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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/658,108	09/08/2000	Kenneth S. Morley	11960.3112	3051

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06/18/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/658,108

Applicant(s)

MORLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Phuongchi T Nguyen

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3 and 9-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 2833

DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's election of species filled on May 16, 2003. It is noted that the applicant elects Species 1, Figures 1-3e with claims 1-2, 4-8 and 11-13. However,

a. Claim 11, line 3, "a digital device" (USB) is described in figure 4;

line 4, "a peripheral device" (30) is described in figure 4.

line 5, "a connector" (44) is described in figure 4.

line 6, "an orienting coupling interface" (26) is described in figure 4.

b. Claims 11-13 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37

CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

c. The Examiner considers claims 1, 2 and 4-8 to be drawn to Species I and those claims will be examined on the merit.

Claim Objection

2. Claims 1- are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, lines 2, "a Universal" should change to -- an Universal --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

a. A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yen (US5880721) in view of Margalit et al (US6554621B1) and Crane (US4932902).

In regard to claim 1, Yen discloses (figure 4) a peripheral interface (10) enabled to allow the attachment of another peripheral interface (10), the peripheral interface (10) being fixably coupled and electrically connected to the plug (19 or 21). Yen discloses the invention, but lacks an adaptor that enables re-orientation of a peripheral adaptor. However, Margalit et al teaches an adaptor (A) (attachment 1) comprising a Universal Serial Bus (USB) (column 2, last line) series "A" plug (A) with (at least) four contacts (it is inherent); and Crane teaches the connector (12) is enable re-orientation and has at least four contacts (figure 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify a peripheral interface of Yen by replacing the plug 19 or 21 with an adaptor A as taught by Margalit for ease to change or replace when the connector being damage; and modify the plug with a re-orientation plug as taught by Crane for ease to plug-in or plug-out the connector in any directions.

In regard to claim 2, Yen lacks the adaptor has four by four matrix of contacts. However, Crane, teaches a connector (figure 1) wherein the different orientations are one of four possible orientations and wherein the peripheral interface (22) further comprises a four by four matrix of contacts (20) arranged so that the peripheral interface (32) may use the same four contact connector configuration in all four of the possible orientations, thereby enabling the same peripheral connector to be used regardless of the desired orientation. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify the plug of Yen with the adaptor as taught by Margalit and provide a four by four matrix of contacts as taught by Crane for ease re-orientation the connector in four directions.

In regard to claim 4, Yen discloses the peripheral interface (10) has an extraction force (from coupling force) in excess (larger than) of the extraction force (pulling force) (for remaining

the connection between the peripheral and the plug) associated with the plug (19 or 21) so that the plug (19 or 21) stays attached to the peripheral interface (10) when the plug (19 or 21) is extracted from a receptacle (on body 11).

In regard to claims 5 and 6, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to provide the amount of force on the peripheral interface of Yen to be suitable larger enough with the force applied by the user.

In regard to claims 7-8, Yen discloses (figure 4) the adaptor (36) wherein the peripheral (10) is configureable as a wireless device enabling short-range wireless communication (Column 1, line 1), further comprising an antenna (7, 9) oriented in an upward direction.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchi T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)305-0729. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308 - 2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7723 for regular communications and (703) 305-7723 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

June 12, 2003


AUSTIN BRADLEY
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
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